

STATE BOARD OF PUBLIC SCHOOL EDUCATION  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
MARCH 15, 2021

Members of the State Board of Public School Education met via Microsoft Teams on Monday, March 15, 2021. The meeting was called to order by Sonia Meehl at 1:00 PM. The following State Board members were in attendance for the meeting:

Mr. Josh Johnson

Dr. Steve Holen

Mr. Jeff Fastnacht

Superintendent Kirsten Baesler

Mr. Burdell Johnson

Ms. Maria Effertz Hanson

Ms. Sonia Meehl

Also present: Allyson Hicks, Alice Johnson, Caryn Woodstead.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Fastnacht moved that the minutes of the January 19, 2021 meeting be approved. Mr. Burdell Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**FINAL APPROVAL OF FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSION OF LAW, AND ORDER, FOR THE FOLLOWING ANNEXATION (CARLSON PETITION):**

The State Board members reviewed the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order as prepared by Allyson Hicks, Assistant Attorney General, for the annexation of property from the Fordville-Lankin Public School District of Walsh County in North Dakota to the Park River Area Public School District of Walsh County in North Dakota (Carlson petition).

A motion was made by Mr. Josh Johnson to approve the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order. The motion was seconded by Dr. Holen.

Results of roll call vote:

Mr. Josh Johnson - yes

Mr. Fastnacht – yes

Dr. Holen – yes

Mr. Burdell Johnson – yes

Superintendent Baesler - yes

Ms. Meehl – yes

Absent for vote – Ms. Effertz Hanson

Motion carried unanimously.

### **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Ms. Hicks indicated that the only bill she thought may affect the Board as far as procedures would be HB 1337, which pertains to how property is disbursed in a dissolution as well as reorganization. That bill had gone through in the House and is scheduled to be heard in the Senate.

Superintendent Baesler provided an update on SB 2196, which would require the State Board to establish and certify a competency framework that waives class-time attendance requirements for students who have mastered the course content in that class. She indicated that the bill had received a Do Pass recommendation from the House Education Committee and is scheduled to be voted on by the full House floor, possibly even today. There were no amendments to the bill suggested by the House from what it received when it came from the Senate. If it passes the House, it will be sent to the Governor for signature.

### **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Ms. Hicks will be providing a series of professional development topics for the State Board. She had prepared a PowerPoint presentation on dissolutions that will be distributed to the members of the State Board.

Superintendent Baesler provided an overview of the materials that had been included in the Board packets regarding historical information on dissolutions, reorganizations, and the number of school districts in the state. This information had been requested by the House Appropriations, Environment and Education Subdivision and Chairman Meehl had asked that the information be included in the packet for historical perspective. Mr. Burdell Johnson mentioned that in reviewing the material, he found that one town had been omitted in a 2008 reorganization. Tuttle had not been included in the material and Superintendent Baesler assured him that the information would be updated. Mr. Josh Johnson asked the question, “What happened in 1993 to precipitate eleven dissolutions?” Superintendent Baesler answered that the legislature had incentivized the reorganization of school districts. Ms. Hicks went on to say that one of the reasons why they encouraged this was that it was not

always fiscally productive to keep schools open in small towns. In addition, there was a massive overhaul of education laws in the late 1990's and early 2000's.

Superintendent Baesler shared that an amendment had been introduced that encourages administrative units, which would incentivize the sharing of superintendents and business managers amongst several school districts.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

Monday, April 19, 2021

There being no other business brought before the board, the meeting adjourned at 1:24 PM.